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REMARKS

The Examiner has required restriction among the following claims:

Group I: Claims 1-17 and 25-31, drawn to a composition comprising a macromer comprising at least one water-soluble region, at least one tissue adhesive region and at least one polymerizable end group region.

Group II: Claim 19, drawn to a method for making a macromer composition comprising at least one NO carrying or producing region.

Group III: Claims 18 and 20-24, drawn to methods comprising compositions comprising a macromer comprising regions selected from the group consisting of water-soluble, tissue adhesive and polymerizable end group regions.

Applicants elect Group III, with traverse.

Applicants respectfully submit that the restriction requirement is erroneous and should be withdrawn. There are two criteria for a proper requirement for restriction between patentably distinct inventions: (1) the inventions must be independent or distinct as claimed; and (2) there must be a serious burden on the Examiner if restriction is required. MPEP § 803.

According to MPEP § 803, the Examiner must examine an entire application on the merits, including claims to distinct or independent inventions, so long as the search and examination of the entire applications can be made without serious burden. Applicant respectfully submits that examination of the claims of the entire application will not impose an undue burden. With respect to the restriction between the groups, Applicant respectfully

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submits that the Examiner has failed to establish any undue burden placed upon the PTO by the presence of all of the groups in the same application.

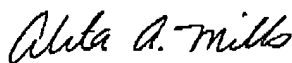
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CONCLUSION

In light of the election and the above remarks, Applicants are of the opinion that the Office Action has been completely responded to and that the application is now in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes any informalities remain in the application that may be corrected by Examiner's Amendment, or there are any other issues that can be resolved by telephone interview a telephone call to the undersigned attorney at (404) 815-6409 is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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